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HALF-YEARLY REPORT
OF THE
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE CONFERENCE
OF THE

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS,

HELD AT SUNDERLAND,

ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, MAY 14TH AND 15TH, 1853.

ELDER THOMAS SQUIRES, *President.*

ELDER EBENEZER GILLIES, *Secretary.*

VISITORS PRESENT.

ELDER JACOB SECREST, *Lea of the German Mission ;*

" J. T. HARDY, *President of the Hull Conference ; and*

" ANDREW GALLOWAY, *President of the Isle of Man Conference .*

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Newcastle-on-Tyne Conference.

SKETCH OF ITS RISE AND PROGRESS.

BY E. GILLIES.

THE first instruments in raising up this Conference were Elders Isaac Russell and Priest Snyder, who were appointed on a mission to Alston, in Cumberland, by a Council of the first Elders that came to England, held July 31st, 1837, eleven days after they landed in Liverpool.

Elder Russell continued to labour in Alston, Brampton, &c., until about March, 1838, and returned to Preston, leaving about sixty members in the care of Elder Jacob Peart.

At the General Conference, held in Manchester, July 6th, 1840, two Branches were represented by Elder John Sanders, viz., Alston and Brampton. The former contained 36 members, 3 Elders, 2 Priests, and 2 Teachers; and the latter 34 members, 1 Elder, and 1 Priest.

Elder Amos Fielding and Priest John Wytch were appointed at the same Conference to go on a mission to Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Elder John Sanders resided in Alston, and it was prophesied in the Saints' meeting that he should go to Carlisle and preach the Gospel, and that in three months he would baptize 50 persons. He commenced preaching at Carlisle about January, 1841, and by the time specified a Branch was raised up in that place, consisting of about 50 members.

At the General Conference, held in Manchester, April 6th, 1841, the Alston, Brampton, and Carlisle Branches, were included in one Conference, and was known by the name of Brampton Conference. Elder J. Sanders was ordained a high priest, and appointed to preside over it. It then contained 115 members, 2 Elders, 1 Priest, and 1 Teacher.

Elder Amos Fielding continued to labour in Newcastle until said Conference, and endured much privation, such as sleeping in a quarry all night, &c. He succeeded in raising up a Branch, which then consisted of 28 members, 1 Elder, 3 Priests, and 1 Teacher.

Elder J. Sanders continued to labour about Carlisle, &c., for some time, and then emigrated with his family to Newroz.

Elder Richard Benson, of Lancashire, was next appointed to preside. He continued a short time, and also emigrated to Newroz.

Elder John Barker, the President of Carlisle Branch, was appointed in his stead. About this time the Conference began to be known by the name of "Carlisle" instead of Brampton Conference. In September, 1843, soon after his appointment over the Conference, Elder Barker first visited Newcastle, and continued to labour there for several months, and baptized a few,

During the same year, the Sunderland Branch was raised up. Elder Barker had baptized a person in Carlisle who travelled the country with an exhibition of stuffed birds. In the course of his travels he came to Sunderland, and was exhibiting his birds in the market-place. One William Kent, a butcher there, thought that there was something peculiar about the man, and was induced to ask him what religion he was of. Brother Page gladly told him, and lent him the Voice of Warning. Soon after some of the brethren came from Newcastle, and baptized W. Kent and W. Knox, and others; hence came the Sunderland Branch.

Elder Barker, who had sent the brethren over from Newcastle, soon came himself, and continued for some months, and preached in different parts of the town, and baptized a few others. He afterwards returned to Carlisle, and went to work at his trade; and, by being industrious and saving, obtained means to take him to America. On obtaining leave, he did so in January, 1846.

Elder John Allen, of Lancashire, succeeded him in the Presidency of the Conference. He went round the Conference, visited the different Branches, and left in a short time.

Elder Burton, of Manchester, next presided. He continued to labour for a few months, and then went home to Manchester.

Elder David Chadland was next appointed over the Conference. He received his appointment at a General Conference, held in Manchester, October 17th, 1846, and continued his labours until March 1st, 1847, when, in consequence of his being unwell, the Presidency was taken from him, and given to Elder W. Speakman, then a Travelling Elder in or about Citheroe Conference; and D. Chadland and Charles Phelps were appointed to continue to labour in the Conference under his direction.

Elder Speakman continued to preside from the above date, until about July, 1850, during which time many were baptized, and several new Branches were raised up, viz, North and South Shields Branches—(Robert Gillies and his brother John were the first instruments in raising up these two Branches)—Bedlington, Cramlington, Wheatley Point, and several others.

Elder John Carmichael, from Glasgow, laboured all the time in connexion with Elder Speakman (according to an appointment which he received from Elder Spencer, in Liverpool), and with much success. The names of several local Elders might also be named, who devoted themselves as much as they could to spread the Gospel in this region—Elder Robert Blackett, who raised up Hartlepool Branch; Elder Bainbridge, of Newcastle, raised up Blyth Branch, and travelled in that vicinity for some time. Elders Hurs, Jenkins, Patterson, Sewell, and others, assisted to raise up the Branches in that region.

About 1847 or 1848, the name of the Conference was changed to "Newcastle-on-Tyne," from that of "Carlisle." Difficulties were found to exist for some time between Elder Speakman and quite a number of the Saints throughout the Conference, and arose chiefly from the supposed bad conduct of Elder Speakman. Several things were laid to his charge from time to time.

Elder G. D. Watt was appointed to come and settle the difficulties, and apparently succeeded in setting things right; but afterwards Elder Speakman acknowledged with sorrow that he had done wrong. He left the conference about July, 1850, and went to the London Conference as a Travelling Elder.

Elder John S. Higbee, from Great Salt Lake Valley, was next appointed to preside, and continued until Jan. 1852; and then, through the liberality of the Saints, returned to his family in the Valley of the Mountains. He conducted himself all the time as a man of God, and the Saints were blessed through his administrations. He had the entire confidence of the Saints, and was esteemed by them a faithful Elder in Israel.

Elder A. M. Harmon, also from the Great Salt Valley, was sent to labour in the Conference on October 1st, 1850; and soon afterwards the Carlisle, Alston, Dalton, and Annan Branches of the Conference were detached therefrom, and made into a Conference of themselves, to be known as "The Carlisle Conference," and Elder A. M. Harmon was appointed to preside over it. He continued to labour there until he was

appointed to take the pastoral charge of Newcastle, Hull, and Carlisle Conferences. He began to fill said appointment in January, 1852, and continued until the spring of the present year, 1853, and then returned to Zion. Elder Harmon was a faithful advocate of the cause of Zion, always keeping in view the things to be accomplished at the present time; so that those plans and measures, dictated by the Priesthood of God, might be carried out. His teachings were always calculated to arouse the energies of the Saints to the building up of Zion, both temporally and spiritually. He conducted himself as a man of God, and had the confidence of the Saints.

Elder Wm. McGhie, from Glasgow, succeeded Elder Higbee in the Presidency of the Conference, and continued until January, 1853, at which time he was removed to Derbyshire Conference, to preside over it. Elder McGhie did not eat the bread of idleness, but was diligent in preaching the truth throughout the Conference and in defending the doctrine of the Saints from the attacks of wicked and unprincipled men, and the Saints were often refreshed and edified through the able manner in which he held forth and elucidated the doctrines of the Latter-Day Saints.

Elders Hutchison and Martin, from Glasgow, also laboured in the Conference under Elder McGhie. They laboured diligently and suffered much privation in their endeavours to break up new ground. They have both returned to Scotland.

Elder C. G. Webb, from the Great Salt Lake Valley, succeeded Elder Harmon in the pastoral charge of these Conferences.

Elder T. Squires succeeded Elder McGhie in the Presidency of this Conference. Elders E. Gardner and Moses Clough, from the Valley, and Elders Pilscock and Smith, from the South, are labouring as Travelling Elders in the Conference.

Elder — Galloway, who had laboured with success in the Northern part of the Conference, has lately been appointed to preside over the Lake of Man Conference. This Conference—at the date of writing this, June 28th, 1853—is considered to be in a healthier state than it has heretofore been. Elder Squires has been labouring hard in getting proper arrangements made for the conducting the business of the Conference. A proper Conference Record has been obtained, wherein to record baptisms, &c., minute book, &c., that all things might be conducted in order, so that the blessing of the Lord may be upon this Conference.

CONFERENCE REPORT.

ELDERS C. G. WEBB, Pastor, and THOMAS SQUIRES, President of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, with the Presidents of Branches, and Travelling Elders of the above Conference, assembled in the Free Masons' Hall, Queen-street, Sunderland, on Saturday, the 14th of May, 1853, at four o'clock, p.m., for the transaction of Conference business.—The meeting was opened by singing the hymn on the 130th page, and prayer.

Elder T. Squires then arose, and made a few remarks on the Holy Priesthood, showed that those who were called to act by Divine authority were the most honourable men of all the earth; called the minds of the Priesthood to the purpose for which they were met—to transact business for the well being of the Conference; requested them to be attentive, and give heed to the things which might be brought

forward. Act in oneness of spirit, so that all things be done in righteousness. I wish to say to the Presidents of Branches, that we only want those items of business which are the most important; the minor part of business, such as the changing of officers, &c. (except there should require a change of Presidency), can be attended to in your own branches as Elder Webb or I come round; for we want to get through with our business as speedily as possible, so that we may have the most part of to-morrow for instruction, &c. Therefore, I shall give place, that we may enter into the business of the Conference.

Voted unanimously, that Elder Thomas Squires take the Presidency of the meeting, and Elder Joshua Cuthb be Treasurer.

Resolved,—

That Elder Rutledge be appointed Book Agent for Shindcliffe Branch.

That Elvth Branch be added to Redington Branch.

That Derwent Branch be added to the Annfield Plain Branch.

That Elder William Peterson, who removed from Crumlington Branch to Scotland—[having left indebted to the general book agent, and did not receive a certificate]—have a certificate according to his request; that being on payment of one pound, and the remainder in about one month.

That Elder Joseph Neeham and wife, of Coxhoe Branch, be cut off—(for rebellion and endeavouring to divide the branch.)

That William Neehells be ordained an Elder, and preside over Coxhoe Branch.

That John Robinson be appointed Book Agent for Coxhoe Branch.

That the meeting adjourn for half an hour.

* * * * *

Met pursuant to adjournment, and opened by singing and prayer.

After which Elder T. Squires arose, and remarked that the duller part of the business was done—the representation of the Branches, &c.; remarked that it was a very important part, and necessary to be attended to, as it showed the standing of the Conference. Informed that the brethren who were from the country Branches would be provided with beds, so that if we should continue to a late hour, they need not be troubled about that, for there is a committee appointed to attend to it. And as we are pretty well through with our business matters, I wish to hear a little from Elder Jacob Seerist; as he has been travelling in Germany, he will be able to tell us of the work of the Lord in that part of the world, that we may be edified and led to rejoice.

Elder Jacob Seerist then arose, and gave us a brief sketch of his journey from the Valley, his visit to his friends in the United States, and baptism of a German lady, who had, on hearing his testimony, received the Holy Spirit before baptism. His voyage across the Atlantic to England, in company with twenty elders, making in all twenty-one, who met regularly in their room in the ship, for worship and instruction, &c., where they had many manifestations of the power of God in prophecy, tongues, interpretations, &c., even to the controlling of the elements. Spoke of his mission to Germany, and his labours in connection with Elders Cern and Rees. Said that many of the people were prepared to receive the testimony of the Elders of the Church; and if the authorities of the country would allow the Elders to preach and administer the ordinances of the Church, there would soon be a mighty ingathering. Said they had succeeded in baptizing a few, and sowing the seed in various places, which would spring up and grow, and others would yet reap the fruit of their labour. Showed that they had been led, guarded, and preserved by the Spirit of God, in their endeavours to spread the truth among that people. Mentioned a circumstance of an angel appearing to a certain man, who was very desirous of knowing the truth, and directing him to Elder Cern at Hamburgh, "saying that he had the truth." Remarked that God was the same in this dispensation as he was in the New Testament dispensation, and could send an angel now to honest, upright men, as he did to Cornelius. (See Acts x.) Said the reason of his being present was in consequence of having been sent out of Germany by the authorities of that country; and that Elder Rees was also sent out of the country with him, and that Elder Cern remained.*

Elder Seymour read a letter which he had received from Elder McChie (late President of this Conference), about a suit of clothes which he had of Mr. Hodges, of Wingate, for Elder A. Galloway (late Travelling Elder in this Conference). He wished to have the minds of the brethren about it, as it was not paid for. After a little deliberation, it was ascertained that the Newcastle, Cramlington, Bedlington, and North and South Shields Branches, were responsible for the money, and agreed to forward the same as soon as possible to the Conference Treasurer.

Elder Seymour brought forward a Debt of £2 5s. owing to sister Soulsby of Newcastle, by the Conference. The said sum had been borrowed of her husband, to assist Elders McChie A. M. Hartman, and Dorr P. Curtis, in going to London to attend the special Conference. It was ascertained that the Debt was due to sister Soulsby—and resolved that the President of each Branch do the best they can to obtain the money, and that it be paid to sister Soulsby as soon as possible.

The meeting was then adjourned, to meet again the next morning at half past 10 o'Clock. A. M.

State of the General Book and Star Agency.

Amount due to the Office at Liverpool	£25 10 5	Amount due by the Branches (see Table)	£25 1 7
		Amount of Stock and Cash in hand	41 3 11
	£25 10 5		£25 5 4
Leaving a balance in favour of the Agent of 15 4			

A Priesthood meeting to be held at Sunderland, on Sunday, August 14th, 1853.

A few words of advice to Presidents and members of Council of the various Branches. The proceedings of the Council of a Branch should be kept secret, unless they are of that character that will require co-operation of the Branch generally. The council is the place where the reports of the Officers of the Branch are to be given, and as the members of the council are the guardians and instructors of the Saints, it is their duty to watch over them continually, for good. The President of the Branch has the general supervision of all things that relate to the Branch over which he presides; it therefore becomes the duty of the visiting officers, to report to him in council, all cases of difficulty among the Saints. After the means of the Laws of the Lord have been resorted to in vain (See Matthew, 18 Chap.) let the case be fully investigated, and the condition of the party he properly represented to the council, and an antidote commensurate with the case be proposed, and it is the duty of the members of the council, to assist the President in carrying out all measures which will be for the well-being of the Saints, and prosperity of the work.

Now advise the man who designedly or inadvertently as soon as he leaves the council, discusses with his wife or friend the proceedings thereof. How often is it the cause of much misunderstanding and mischief, whereas if the case was confined to its proper sphere, and attended to in its proper place, there would never be so many difficulties nor so much contention. Therefore let it become obligatory upon every member of Council to hold secret all its proceedings.

The Book and Star Agency of a branch should not be forgotten by the President. It is highly important that the Saints should be supplied with the standard works of the Church, that they may be in possession of every possible facility for the acquisition of knowledge pertaining to the work in which they are engaged. It is highly important that our works should have as extensive a sale amongst strangers as possible, each book or pamphlet sold will be an able expositor of the truths of the Gospel whenever consulted. Therefore it is necessary to take an interest in all things that pertain to the publications of the Church, and endeavour to keep their importance continually before the Saints; and let the members be shown the necessity of buying up the back Stacks for distribution or otherwise, and thereby assist in liquidating the debt now standing at the office. Let the President see that the sub-agents' accounts are duly audited at the proper time, and an account taken and kept, that you may have a knowledge of the state thereof.

The Perpetual Emigration Fund should not be lost sight of. The Saints should be shown the importance of this fund, and exhorted to assist in gathering the poor to the Mountains of Israel. Every soul gathered will be able to return ten-fold more to the gathering of the poor to the Valley than he would if he was permitted to remain here. Therefore let the Saints be stirred up to remembrance of their duty.

THE TEMPLE FUND ON OFFERINGS.—Let the Saints take an active interest in this fund, and co-operate with their brethren in Zion in building a Temple to the Lord, that they may secure to themselves a right to the blessings thereof. For more information on this subject see Star No. 13, vol. 15, page 20.

SUNDAY MORNING.

After the meeting had been opened by singing and prayer, Elder Squires arose, and made the following remarks. I rejoice to meet with you this morning in Conference, and I trust that we shall feel better at the close of this day, than we do at the present time. "Mormonism signifies more good," and teaches us to seek after more truth, but it is not my intention to occupy much of your time now, as it is known to most who are present, that the Conference commenced yesterday, and by doing so, we were enabled to get through a good portion of the business at that time, and I think it would be best for the clerk to read over the minutes of yesterday, and also the representation of the Conference. In accordance with the request of President Squires, the clerk read over the minutes, &c.

After the representation had been read over by the clerk, Elder Squires arose, and made some remarks relative to a few small debts that had been contracted in the Conference, and said he should like to see the brethren attend to these things, as soon as possible. We will next hear the report of the general book Agent, and I wish the sub-agents to take notice whether the account that is read over by the General Agent be correct, so that if it is not, it may be corrected. Elder Hobson then read over his account, after which Elder Squires arose and said, that he felt glad to hear the report of Brother Hobson concerning the Book Agency. It was first rate, and he felt satisfied that it was in a good condition, but I feel to say to all the Sub-agents, that they must not credit any books to any person, no, not even a "Star" and if you abide by this instruction you will be right, and if you do not you will get wrong, and bring a burden upon the branches that you will not easily get rid of. But I would here remark, Brethren, that I feel you are good men, and I have found you so since I came into your midst, and that you are men that love to obey counsel, and for these things I feel to love you and you have my confidence, and may God bless you in my prayer, even so, Amen.

The next thing I shall present before you will be the authorities of this Church, but I feel before doing so, to make a few remarks. I know that since the new Revelation came forth, in some places there has been some who have questioned the motives of these men, and have in consequence had peculiar feelings towards them.

I do not suppose that this applies to any in this congregation, but I wish to say to all present at this time, that when you vote for these men, that you do not vote in the presence of men alone, but also in the presence of God and angels, and if you cannot vote with confidence, I would rather that you voted against them; therefore vote as you feel, when the resolutions are put to sustain those whom God has placed over you, for the time has come that you must choose whom you will cleave unto. You may think that those remarks are severe, but I feel led to say these things unto you, because when you vote you covenant to uphold and sustain those men in their high and holy callings, wherunto they have been called. The President then presented the Authorities of the Church, who were all sustained by the unanimous vote of the Conference.

Elder Webb then arose, and made a few remarks as follows: Beloved Brethren, this is one of my proudest moments, you seem to do up business in a first rate style, and it rejoices my heart to see the same, a constant characteristic all your movements, and if this spirit continues in your midst you will be blessed, but I have a few words to say respecting Elder Squires; you know what he needs; he requires food, clothing &c. And if you feel to uphold and sustain him in these things, as well as by your

faith and prayers, I wish you to manifest the same, by raising the right hand. A clear vote.

After some other little items of business had been attended to, Elder Squires arose, and made a few concluding remarks, and said, I have been in many difficulties in this Kingdom, since I became one of its members, but I have always got through; and I feel still to go ahead, and am not afraid to prophesy that we shall do all that is required of our hands. And as the saints in the south part of the Conference have had nothing to contend with, compared with the north, I would like them now to lay hold, and assist their brethren out of present difficulties, and thus show their attachment and love for the cause of truth, and then we shall all feel first rate. I wish also to say a few words about the Newcastle Branch, for I feel interested in that place, and feel to push the battle to the gate. I have given instructions to the brethren there, to take two or three more Halls, and I feel by the next Conference, that instead of being only one branch in that place, there will be two or three, for I feel God is going to bless our labours among that people, and that we shall gather some of the rich into the Church. Brethren, I want us to feel our position, and realize our calling, that we may be blessed of the Lord, and my prayer is that God may bless you. Even so, Amen.

Afterwards a hymn was sung, and the meeting dismissed, with a benediction from Elder Galloway.

AFTERNOON SERVICE

The meeting was opened by Elder Squires giving out the Hymn on the 298rd page, which was sung by the Choir. Prayer was offered up by Elder Gardner, after which the hymn on the 294th page was sung. Elder Squires arose, and made the following remarks. Beloved Brethren, and sisters, I feel glad to see a good company together this afternoon, and no doubt this afternoon will be a time of rejoicing, and while God's servants are addressing us, let us pray for them, that they may enjoy much of the Holy Spirit, that we may be edified and built up by the instructions which they may give. But this is not my object in rising at this time, but I have learned that there has been some baptized since the report was sent in, viz, five in Newcastle, and one in Sunderland.

I had thought that we should baptize 100, but we have fallen a little short of that, yet we have done pretty well.

You will perceive that in Newcastle, the work is beginning to prosper, and I feel (especially in large towns) to push the work ahead. There is plenty of room in Sunderland, to take one or two more rooms, and I feel to say to the Brethren, let it be so, and as I said this morning, let us "push the battle to the gate," and so accomplish a great work in this region of country. And I feel to bless you in the name of the Lord. Even so, Amen.

Elder Webb arose, and said, Brethren and Sisters, I do not rise to address the meeting myself, but to introduce some of the visiting brethren, and I have no doubt but the saints will rejoice to hear from them. And as we have Elders Secrist, Galloway, and Hardy, I intend to hear from them all before the day is past; and I have no doubt, but what these brethren will edify and instruct you, and that you will go away from this meeting rejoicing in truths which will be brought forth by these men; and may God bless you with an attentive ear. I shall now give way, and introduce Elder Galloway.

Elder Galloway—I delight to have the opportunity of meeting with you at this time, although for my own part, I would rather have sat and heard these speak that are placed over us, than speak myself; nevertheless, I prize the privilege to stand before you in this Conference assembled. While I sat in the meeting this forenoon, I felt to say in my soul, that you were blessed with good men to rule over you, and that they were inspired with the Holy Spirit, from on High; and I know that they will bless you, inasmuch as you will obey their counsel, and walk before all men as becometh saints of God. I believe that the dawn of a brighter day, has shone upon this Conference, and that there are hundreds of honest people who are waiting for the servants of God to come and proclaim the principles of Eternal

truth unto them, and lead them on to those things that are calculated to enrich the mind, and inform the judgment of every faithful saint. It would have afforded me pleasure to remain with you another summer, but still I believe it is all right; yet I must say, that I have a strong attachment to this Conference, and shall ever feel an interest in your welfare. Brethren, the work we are engaged in, is able to accomplish all that men ever thought of, and as I once heard a servant of God say, it is able to accomplish all that ever God thought of. Then, while we live in a day when Revelation is again enjoyed by the children of men, what kind of people ought we to be, seeing that we have been made partakers of those truths which have been revealed by the God of Heaven? And I say, brethren, if it has brought us peace and joy, should we confine it to ourselves, while hundreds are dying for the lack of the everlasting Gospel? No! no! Brethren, let us, while the day lasts, put upon us the helmet of salvation, buckle upon us the sword of truth, go forth as men, clothed upon with the Priesthood of God, and lift up our voice in proclaiming the truth, and the day shall come, when many shall rise and thank God that ever the sound of the Gospel reached their ears through our instrumentality, as servants of God. They will be enabled to build upon the foundation of Apostles, and Prophets. Yes, I say brethren, if you are faithful in your calling this season, many shall rise, and call you blessed for these things. We live in a peculiar day, an age in which God has spoken from the Heavens, and has held converse with men, and given unto them the Holy Priesthood, whereby they can attend to the ordinances of the house of God. Yes, brethren, and sisters, we are a people that know for ourselves, and can say as did John, "that we know we are of God, and the whole world lieth in the arms of the wicked one." And it is this knowledge that has enabled this Church to pass through the difficulties it has been called to pass through, knowing that nothing could overcome them while they had the Holy Priesthood in their midst; then I say let those who hold the Holy Priesthood, go forth like men of God, and as Elder Squires said, "push the battle to the gate" and manifest that we are a people that feel for our fellow men. I say, let us use every lawful means to accomplish these things, for you have men in your midst that are able to lead you on to accomplish these things; for they are filled with knowledge, light, and intelligence. Then I say, uphold them by your faith and prayers, and abide by the counsel and instruction which they may give from time to time, and they will lead you on to obtain life everlasting. Then, my brethren, and sisters, it is no mean thing to be a Saint in very deed, for remember the actions of the saints are looked at by those who are around them; let our conduct therefore be according to our profession, and let us be Saints indeed, for it is not the name alone that is going to save us, but it is by keeping the commandments of God. Brethren, before I came to this meeting I felt that we should enjoy much of the Holy Spirit of God, and although I felt that circumstances were conspiring against my coming, even the very elements seemed to conspire against me, yet by faith and works, I am in your midst, and I feel to rejoice. I hope to get filled with the Holy Spirit, and go back to my field of labour, enjoying the good things which I have received, while at this Conference. But as we have those in our midst, that will edify you much better than myself, I will sit down and give way for them to speak, praying God to bless you all, from henceforth and for ever, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Elder Snower—I am glad to stand before you at this time. How much I shall say to your edification I cannot tell, but I will do my best. Many reflections have passed through my mind while I have been with you. Our brother who last spoke said he should go back to his field of labour and take the Spirit with him; but I say, brethren, that he has brought the Spirit of God with him to this meeting. I have felt greatly to rejoice while I have been in your company, and the way that you do up business in this place is just the style we have in the Valley. We, as a people, do not believe alone, but we know for ourselves that these things are true, and all people can know the same if they will humble themselves, and be baptised for the remission of sin, and have the imposition of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost. I was glad to hear that the brethren were going to push the work on in this Conference. I had thought, seeing that there were so many Elders from the Valley, and so many in this country, that the Gospel must have been preached in every place; but in this I find myself mistaken, for it appears that there are places where the sound

of the Gospel has never been heard. I feel, like Elder Galloway, that the time has come for good to be done in this place, and I have my reasons for saying so. If we will let our light shine before men we shall be blessed, and if I enjoy as much of the spirit as I have done in Germany, I shall be satisfied, for I have felt greatly blessed. Yet I have felt sometimes a kind of righteous indignation when I have heard men blaspheme and vilify the characters of those men whom I know to be the chosen of the Lord. The people in Germany were ready to hear the Gospel, but we were not allowed to preach to them, yet I have felt blessed all the time; and when I got to Hull among the Saints I felt just right, for they are full of holy fire in that place at the present time, and full of the Spirit of God, for they have good men over them. And if we are good men and servants of the Most High, we shall win all the honour, the upright, and the pure minded over to obey the truth, for light will cleave to light, honesty will cleave to the truth, and purity will seek the company of those who are like minded.

I feel sorry that Elder Webb's health is so poor, for I know that he is full of teaching, and I love to hear his voice. I have heard it many times in days that are past, and I hope by our prayers that we shall yet hear something that will do us good from him. Brethren, it is my duty to go forth and save myself, and not for Brother Webb or any one else to do it for me. I can read the Bible and can hear instructions that may be given; but it is for me to go forth and comply with the requirements of God's law as taught in the Scriptures, and by his servants upon the face of the earth.

The speaker then bore testimony to the power of God, which he had seen and felt since he became a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and said, I know that Brigham Young is a Prophet of God, and I have signed my name to this testimony in Germany, and I am glad of it. In conclusion I would say, Brethren and Sisters, that the Spirit of God that is with his people in the Valley will be felt by all the natives of the earth, and all shall yet acknowledge the divine authenticity of the work in which you and I are engaged. I pray God to bless each of us with much of his Holy Spirit through all the subsequent vicissitudes of mortal life. Even so, Amen.

Elder Gardner,--Brethren and Sisters, like the rest, I feel to rejoice, and in fact I rejoice all the time that I have been in England, for I have nothing to trouble me, except this colliery smoke that troubles me some times. Elder Seeratt said that he was no preacher, but I know him to be a good man, and although he has not said much he has spoken first rate. I, like him, could farm and chop wood much better than preach, but still I am ready to do whatever I am set to.

While I have been in this Conference I have witnessed that the spirit of God has been enjoyed all the time, and I also have rejoiced to hear of wars and rumours of wars, and I say God speed them on just as it is his will to do so, for it is all for the best; so let them come, and it will suit me much better than any other thing, for the sooner they come the sooner the work will be accomplished. Brethren and Sisters, there is power enough here in this place, if it were put in proper order, and fully exercised, to storm nations. Well, what does it want! Why, unity and obedience to the commandments of God, living by every word that proceeds from his mouth, and contend for the faith once delivered to the Saints. If we had as much faith as a grain of mustard seed, what could we accomplish! Do you believe the Scriptures! They say the earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof, with the cattle upon a thousand hills! There is enough for all! We have got to work for them and they are all ours through obedience; but the thing is how to get at them, this seems the most difficult point at present. But I am not going to stand and talk to you at this time, as there are those present who can talk much better. May the Lord bless you now and for ever. Amen.

Elder Gilbert arose and said, Brethren and Sisters, I may say that I am taken by surprise, for I never expected to stand before you this day; but whenever I am called upon I feel to comply, this has been my rule ever since I obeyed the Gospel. I know that this is the work of God by the power and Spirit of the Lord, and every man and every woman has the opportunity to prove it for themselves. And unless we have this knowledge we shall not be able to stand in this Church, for it is by intelligence that we shall obtain a seat in the celestial kingdom of God. Perhaps it

may be well for me to tell you how I am getting on in the world, as I shall not have the opportunity to speak to you personally, as I will tell you while I am here.

There never was a time when I felt so much to rejoice in the work of God as I do at the present time, although I have been in the Church for eleven years. I believe that there are honest people in every place upon earth, and there is only one thing that grieves me, and that is, I cannot be in two places at once; but still I rejoice that the seed is sown and will spring up, and I say that he is a poor Mormon that cannot make another. Thus you perceive I look upon all the Saints as preachers, both brethren and sisters, and by this means will the Gospel spread among the people.

The speaker then went on to show how the work had taken hold in the place where he resided, and said that the Devil had determined to convert all the people and let the Lord have none. But yet the Saints were doing all they could to save some. He then went on to show what the principle of unity would accomplish, and urged upon the Saints to be faithful in the work in which they had engaged, observing that although he had desired to go to Zion for the last eleven years, yet he did not see at this time when he should go, but he felt to say that he should go as soon as the Lord wanted him. These were his feelings upon the matter, and his determination was to do whatever the Lord wished him to do. He continued, and that is easily to be comprehended, for when the servants of the Lord say anything unto me I have no need to go to the Lord about it, for they are the mouthpieces of the Lord unto me. May the Lord bless you, is the prayer of my heart, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Elder Squires—As there are a few minutes left I feel to occupy them for our mutual edification, yet I have so many things upon my mind I know not where to begin; but I will say a word about the work of the Lord. Elder Seerist said, that Elder Galloway had brought the Spirit with him. I feel to say the same, for I felt the Spirit while he was speaking, and I have rejoiced in what has been said by all the brethren, who have spoken; and as Elder Snow said when he prophesied in Italy, that after he had prophesied, he wished the brethren to go forth and fulfil the prediction. I wish the same spirit to be in this Conference, and as I said at the commencement of this meeting about the Saints in this place getting another Hall, I say let this thing be done, and bring all the force you can, both out of doors, and in doors, to proclaim the principles of Eternal Life to the people.

Some of you may say, I have preached in this place, and in the other place, and I think we need not preach there again; but, my beloved Brethren, I think different, for it is no rule to go by, for as all corn is not ripe at the same time, neither is all places where the Brethren preach ready for the Gospel at one time. I have known places that have been sealed up, and men have gone and broke those seals, and have done much good, for the Lord has not sent us forth to seal up the people, but to save them.

It is well known that we have had many things to contend with, and it has been a matter of astonishment to many how the work has rolled on, yet it has gone on, and we give God the glory. Beloved brethren, we come in contact with many things while preaching the Gospel in the world, that are very unpleasant, but we must take up the cross. Now perhaps when we go forth, we shall be called upon to answer many questions, and it will require much wisdom to go among the people, but I would say to the Brethren, if you meet with a contentious person, have nothing to do with him, but if he be a honest man, answer him his questions; but it is not wise to answer many things in the open air, but you gather a mob about you; but if he wishes to talk with you, go with him to his house, and talk with him on the way home. But above all, avoid useless discussions, for I have no faith in them, for I never knew them do much good; and as Elder Seerist said, let us preach those things which we know to be true; for true greatness does not consist in teaching that we do not know, but in doing the most good in the best way we can; and that is a great man who does the most good. There are many men that have wisdom, as far as the wisdom of this world is concerned, while a man that can scarcely read comes along and tells the wise that he has received the Gospel of truth, and that he knows it to be true; and then hears his testimony to the same. These wise men cannot help but feel the weight of his testimony that he bears to them.

I once was talking with a person, and finding that he was all for contention, I felt by the Spirit of God to bear my testimony to him; and while I did so, he began to tremble, and falter, and could not stay with me any longer. And, my-brethren, there is a great deal in bearing testimony; this is a very important part of our mission to testify to the truth. I feel to love you, and I believe that you love me; and this morning when I saw you lift up your hands, I said in my heart, God bless this people. Beloved saints, we have many duties placed upon us, and sometimes we feel as if we had too much; but yet I feel we can do all things that are given us to do if we are united, and while our brethren from America have been talking about Temples in that land, let me ask how have they been reared? I answer, by sacrifice! and as we sing, "Sacrifice brings forth the blessings of Heaven" so let it be with us. The speaker then exhorted the Saints to send their offerings to the Temple, and showed the blessings to be received thereby. After speaking upon these things, he addressed the Presidents of Branches, and told them to seek for the Spirit of God, and pray much that they might enjoy the Holy Spirit of Truth; observing, you have my blessing, and I would say, do not be in too great a hurry to cut people off from the Church, for that man who is so fond of cutting off, is going the way to be cut off himself. And hence I feel to say, Brethren, seek for wisdom to guide you in all your ways; and in conclusion, I say, may the Lord bless you in all your righteous undertakings. As it is time to bring this meeting to a close, or rather adjourn, for I expect to have a good time this evening, and brethren and sisters came together to enjoy these blessings; I will not detain you longer, but ask for a continuance of the blessing we enjoy. Amen.

Elder Robson then gave out the Hymn on the 169th Page, which was sung by the Choir, and the meeting was dismissed with benediction by Elder Sacrist.

EVENING MEETING.

Opened by singing and prayer. Elder Webb then arose and introduced Elder J. T. Hardy, and said, he wished those who were interested in the principles of truth to have their faith in exercise for the speaker. That those who had come here to be instructed might not be disappointed. Elder Hardy then arose and said, that he felt his weakness as a servant of God, and his health was not good, he had nothing prepared, but trusted he would be dictated by the Spirit of Truth, that both the Saints and our friends might have a portion of truth meted out to them. He showed that the principle of continued revelation was a principle of the Church of Christ now as well as anciently; that the Church in all ages produced Scripture. Said that we do not believe so much of our religion should be written on parchment, and be confined to believe that and no more; but we believe that God would continue to give new Revelations from year to year, and from month to month, and from day to day. We do not suppose that our friends can see as we do, without they take the same course that we have done; but if they will obey the doctrine of Christ as we have, they would know for themselves that it was of God as we do. He said that he used to read the Scriptures before he became a Saint, and sometimes wondered why things did not exist in the church now as they did in the Apostles' days, he often wished that he lived in the Apostles' days. He bore testimony that we were now privileged to live in the Apostles' days; that a new dispensation was ushered in; that the Kingdom of God was again set up on the earth, &c. Said that there might be some here who belong to other churches, and no doubt were many a time at a loss to know if they were right, and more especially, if they had heard the Saints often; but if they would go to their minister and ask them about baptism, &c., they would say it was not essential [and such things were done away with, but for all they could say, still there was a secret something, that told them that the Saints' principles were true, &c. He made some remarks on priesthood, and about the reign of Christ and his Saints on the earth, &c. He referred to a remark made by our beloved President, that as we had revealed to us the more advanced principles of truth, we required increased wisdom to handle them aright. Compared them to a knife blade;

first it was rescuten out of the stone into the bar of steel, then put into the fire and brought out on to the anvil and hammered into the shape of a blade, but was not sharp; but taking it to the grindstone, every turn of the stone makes it sharper and sharper until it is as sharp as a razor, and care must then be taken in using it, or it would cut our fingers.

Elder Warr followed, and said that he was much gratified at the day's proceedings; said that he had rejoiced in the principles of the Gospel for half his life (about nineteen years). To him they did not war old, but were his supreme delight from day to day, &c. Said that the most degraded being upon the face of the earth could see that great division existed among mankind; but what is the cause of it? The great cause of such a direful state of things, is in consequence of men taking upon them to promulgate principles among the children of man, which they themselves do not understand and know to be true, and therefore could not be united, as truth is the basis of that union, which will bring peace and happiness to mankind; but what shall be done to cure this great evil? the only way is, for men to obey the principles of the Gospel. Let the Gospel be obeyed, and acted upon, and union is the result! It is the same in every nation where it is found, which is proof positive; that it is the right system, to bring peace and happiness to mankind. Jesus laid down the plan, but men have departed from it, and have introduced plans of their own, which have caused all this division. I cannot conceive of the Gospel causing division, for it is the basis of union. The Gospel is truth, truth is light, and if men have light, they will act in union, a oneness of effort will characterize all their movements, for they will be one. And now let us endeavour to be one, and carry out the instructions which have been given us this day, so that we may be hazzited, the Gospel spread, and the kingdom of God built up.

BRANCHES IN THE NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE CONFERENCE.

NO.	NAME OF BRANCH.	YEAR COMPLETED.	PLACE OF MEETING.	NAME OF PRESIDENT.	ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT.
1	Sunderland	Aug. 13, 1843	Free Mason's Hall, Quayside, Sunderland	James Robson	No. 6, Dock, Dumbarton-street, Monkwearmouth, Sunderland.
2	Newcastle-upon-Tyne	1846	Exhibition Rooms, Newcastle-upon-Tyne	William Mason	Mrs. Bainbridge's 28, Wedgwood-street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
3	North Shields	Oct. 16, 1847	William Russell	William Russell	Waterloo, Cable Dock, North Shields.
4	South Shields .....	.....	Leas Burthogues	Leas Burthogues	Along the Tyneside, near Breckley Wharf, Durham.
5	Harbington	June 16, 1848	Robert Gooden	Robert Gooden	Stoneside-street, Leas Burthogues, Harbington.
6	Bedlington .....	.....	Bedlington	Alexander Gillespie	No. 16, Old Fm, Bedlington.
7	Wingate .....	.....	.....	William Killy	11½, Todd-street, Wingate, Durham.
8	Chester-le-Street	July 4, 1852 .....	.....	John Whitson	Old Stone-son, Chester-le-Street.
9	Five Houses .....	.....	.....	Joseph Dewart	Five Houses.
10	Kellon	June 29, 1851 .....	.....	John Lave	Quartermaster's Room, near Kellon, Durham.
11	Archeological Plain	March 15, 1853 .....	.....	William Wilson	Ralph Street Westwood, near Darby, Northham.
12	Corbridge	Jan. 13, 1853 .....	.....	William Wilson	harbison.
13	Alnborough .....	.....	.....	James Moor	25, Long Lane, Corbridge, Durham.
14	Little Chilton	April 27, 1855 .....	.....	Thomas Wilson	Alnborough, near Alnwick.
15	Bedlington Lane	Dec. 4, 1855	School Room, Bedlington Lane	Robert Gillies	Little Chilton Colliery, Ferry Hill, Durham.
16	Stannfield	Dec. 16, 1856 .....	.....	John Bealidge	Bedlington Lane, Durham.

* Meetings held in Free Mason's Houses.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE CONFERENCE TABULAR RETURN.

No.	Name of Branch.	Elders.	Prebys.	Teachers.	Deacons.	Baptized.	Can. off.	Received in Conference.	Received in Conference.	Removed out of Conference.	Received from other Conferences.	Emigrated.	Dead.	Scattered.	Total Number of Members.	Amount due to the General Book Agent.	Amount donated towards the De-Prebys of the Conference, and for the Bible Society.	Amount donated towards the De-Prebys of the Conference.	Amount donated for the General Book Agent.	Amount donated towards the De-Prebys of the Conference.	Amount donated for the General Book Agent.	Amount donated towards the De-Prebys of the Conference.	Amount donated for the General Book Agent.
1	Sturtevant	18	5	7	2	6	6	9	1	10	4	1	1	1	139	44	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Newcastle-on-Tyne	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
3	South Shields	6	7	3	2	8	9	10	4	8	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
4	South Shields	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
5	South Shields	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
6	South Shields	6	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
7	Wingate	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
8	Wingate	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
9	Wingate	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
10	Wingate	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
11	Wingate	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
12	Wingate	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
13	Wingate	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
14	Wingate	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
15	Wingate	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
16	Wingate	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Total		62	40	20	8	32	46	47	12	38	8	13	13	13	588	435	1	7	0	0	0	0	0

* The Members of the English Branch were transferred to this Branch

* The Members of the Eighth Branch were represented in this Branch.
 † The Members of the Durham Branch were represented in this Branch.